

To: R6 Daily News MailList[R6_DailyNewsML@epa.gov]
From: Hubbard, Joseph
Sent: Thur 9/3/2015 4:17:36 PM
Subject: Daily News Digest, Thursday, Sept. 3
[Daily News Digest 09032015.pdf](#)

1 — Navajo Nation Seeking FEMA Help After Colorado Spill, BNA, 9/2/2015

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=75105638&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0h2b7r3

The Navajo Nation has officially requested the appointment of a federal disaster recovery coordinator from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to assist the tribe as it recovers from the Animas River spill.

“An FDRC could assist the Nation to effectively assess the short- and long-term impact of the disaster, determine priorities, and activate a recovery support strategy,” Russell Begaye, president of the nation, said in a Sept. 1 statement.

2 — Colorado Mine Spill Prompts Changes in Warning System, ABC News, 9/2/2015

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/colorado-mine-spill-prompts-warning-system-33487401>

A massive wastewater spill from an old gold mine in Colorado has prompted state officials to expand the list of downstream users they will warn after such accidents. Last month, Colorado health officials notified only agencies inside the state after 3 million gallons of water tainted with heavy metals gushed out of the Gold King mine near Silverton and eventually reached the Animas, San Juan and Colorado rivers in New Mexico and Utah.

3 – Texas farmers brace for new clean water rule, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, 9/2/2015

<http://lubbockonline.com/filed-online/2015-09-02/texas-farmers-brace-new-clean-water-rule#.VehfpvlVhBc>

In the 65 years that Tommy Calvert has grown hay and raised cattle in Denton County, he's never applied for a federal permit. But with a new national clean water rule in effect, he's not sure if it's something he needs to think about. After heavy rains, runoff from his fields sometimes reaches a creek near his 300-acre farm, and Calvert doesn't know if that tenuous connection to the drinking water supply might be enough to bring him under federal purview.

4 — Texas Railroad Commission Refutes Study Linking Quakes to Oil and Gas Industry,

NPR, 9/2/15

<https://stateimpact.npr.org/texas/2015/09/02/texas-railroad-commission-refutes-study-linking-quakes-to-oil-and-gas-industry/>

An inquiry by the agency that regulates the oil and gas industry in Texas has found that oil and gas activity did not likely cause a swarm of earthquakes around the north Texas towns of Azle and Reno starting in 2013. The finding, however, flies in the face of a peer-reviewed scientific study of the quakes. The Texas Railroad Commission is the strangely named agency that regulates the state's oil and gas activity.

5 — Documentary 'Gasland' Pivotal to Anti-Fracking Movement: Study, NY Times, 9/2/2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/09/02/arts/02reuters-usa-fracking-gasland.html?ref=reuters&r=0>

Dozens of clashing studies have examined whether fracking contaminates water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this year concluded a five-year study that said fracking does not pose widespread risk to groundwater but pointed out some cases of pollution. Worries about water contamination and earthquakes led New York to pass a state-wide ban on fracking this year and several municipalities in other states like Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, and Texas to seek to impose local curbs.

6 — Study explores possibility of 1-in-10,000-year storms, newspaper reports, Times Picayune, 9/2/2015

http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/09/study_explores_possibility_of.html#incart_most_shared-environment

A new study that explores the possibility of a 1-in-10,000-year storm – a storm much worse than anything in recent memory – suggests a strong Category 3 hurricane could cause a nearly 37-foot storm surge in Tampa, Fla. The Washington Post interviewed one of the authors of the study, which appeared in Nature Climate Change. The authors, Ning Lin of Princeton and Kerry Emanuel of MIT, call the possible storms "gray swans."

7 — Well Explosion Could Put Pressure on Texas Regulators, Texas Tribune, 9/2/2015

<http://www.texastribune.org/2015/09/02/well-explosion-could-put-pressure-texas-regulators/>

While filling a cattle trough 15 months ago, Ashley Murray noticed something odd occurring in the shack housing her family's water pump. High-pressure water was spraying everywhere. She switched off the pump, went into the house and asked her husband to take a look. So out walked Cody Murray with his father Jim.

8 – More than 3 trillion trees grow on Earth, study finds, Times Picayune, 9/2/2015

http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/09/earth_tree_count_3_trillion.html#incart_river

More than 3 trillion trees now grow on Earth, seven times more than scientists previously thought. But it's also trillions fewer than there used to be, a new study concludes. A United Nations-affiliated youth group had a goal of planting one billion trees and Yale forestry researcher Thomas Crowther was asked if planting that many trees would do anything to help combat human-made climate change. Trees capture and store heat-trapping carbon dioxide.

9 — Texas regulator sees no evil as it starts mandated review, Greenwire, 9/2/2015

<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2015/09/02/stories/1060024169>

Texas' top oil and gas regulator is arguing for the status quo as it faces its third round of legislative reauthorization in four years. The state Railroad Commission says it should be left intact and recommends no changes in its major programs in its initial report to the state Sunset Advisory Commission.

10 — Tentative deal made for Ascension Parish to buy Peoples Water system in Donaldsonville, Advocate, 9/2/2015

<http://theadvocate.com/news/ascension/13300670-123/tentative-deal-made-for-ascension>

Ascension Parish government has reached an agreement in principle with Peoples Water Service Co. to buy its water operations in Donaldsonville for \$5.9 million. If the deal goes through, the parish plans to inject another \$5 million in upgrades to the water system, parish officials said.

11 — Okla. university cleans up radioactive spill, Greenwire, 9/2/2015

<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2015/09/02/stories/1060024186>

The University of Tulsa is cleaning up what officials say is a minor spill of a radioactive

chemical. School officials said yesterday that 21 people who may have been exposed to cesium-137 are undergoing medical checks.

12 — Environmental groups are asking EPA to reject Texas' air pollution plan for Fort Worth, FW Weekly, 9/2/2015 <http://www.fwweekly.com/2015/09/02/what-air-pollution/>

By 2018, the air quality in North Texas is projected to be among the worst in the country. That's according to a recent ozone study by the Environmental Protection Agency. And we won't be alone. Baltimore, Houston, and New York City are also expected to exceed EPA's safe ozone limit (75 parts per billion). North Texans should definitely be concerned

13 — ‘Greener: Texas should control its own energy policy, Houston Chron, 9/2/2015

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/outlook/article/Greener-Texas-should-control-its-own-energy-6481393.php>

No one likes the summer in Texas. Maybe the only thing we like less is how expensive it is to keep the air conditioning on. Unfortunately for us, the Obama administration just guaranteed that it's going to get even more expensive in the years to come.

14 — Group Says Regulators Too Close To Utilities, KUNM, 9/3/2015

<http://kunm.org/post/group-says-regulators-too-close-utilities-coalition-unveil-early-education-plan#stream/0>

An environmental group says members of a powerful New Mexico regulatory body are too "chummy" with utility executives and should not be making any decisions about the fate of a coal-fired power plant that serves customers around the Southwest. Santa Fe-based New Energy Economy filed a motion late Wednesday with the Public Regulation Commission, seeking the recusal of four of the panel's five members.

15 — Flaring still standard practice as regulators aim to reduce emissions, 9/2/2015

http://www.daily-times.com/energymagazine/ci_28742524/flaring-still-standard-practice-regulators-aim-reduce-emissions

Oil and gas companies continue to flare gas, while some point to a loss of potential profits and concerns about air quality for people who live in areas where there is industry activity. This, at a time, when energy regulations from the federal government are increasing.

16 Oklahoma Ranchers Affected By New Federal Clean Water Act Rules, News OK, 9/2/2015

<http://www.newsok.com/story/29948132/oklahoma-ranchers-affected-by-new-federal-clean-water-act-rules>

Oklahoma farmers, ranchers and small business owners say the federal government is overstepping its boundaries.

New rules issued by the Environmental Protection Agency are aimed at keeping drinking water clean, but those who depend on the land to make a living said it will hurt their business.